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Filing Date: 17 August 1998

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-34 are cancelled without prejudice, disclaimer, or admission.

Please add the following new claims 35-57:

-- 35. A recombinant nucleic acid, that will hybridize under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or its complement.

36. A recombinant nucleic acid, comprising a nucleic acid sequence having at least about 90% identity to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

37. A recombinant nucleic acid, comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having at least about 90% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

38. A recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 35, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid further comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

39. A recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 37, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

40. A recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 35, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid encodes a human protein.

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41. A recombinant polypeptide, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 90% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

42. A recombinant polypeptide, comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 35.

43. A recombinant polypeptide according to Claim 41, further comprising the amino acid sequence set forth by SEQ ID NO:2.

44. A recombinant polypeptide according to Claim 41, wherein said amino acid sequence corresponds to the amino acid sequence of a human protein.

45. A recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 35, further comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth by amino acids 18-253 of SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement of said nucleic acid sequence.

46. A recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 45, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes the amino acid sequence set forth by amino acids 18-253 of SEQ ID NO:2.

47. A recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 35, further comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth by amino acids 273-390 of SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement of said nucleic acid sequence.

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48. A recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 47, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes the amino acid sequence set forth by amino acids 273-390 of SEQ ID NO:2.

49. A recombinant nucleic acid according to any one of Claims 35-37, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the nucleic acid.

50. An expression vector, comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 49.

51. A host cell, comprising the recombinant nucleic acid of any one of Claims 35-37.

52. A host cell, comprising the expression vector of Claim 50.

53. A method for producing a protein, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 51 under conditions suitable for expression of a protein.

54. A method for producing a protein, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 52 under conditions suitable for expression of a protein.

55. A method according to either Claim 53 or Claim 54, further comprising recovering said protein.

56. A method for modulating apoptosis in a cell, comprising administering to said cell a recombinant nucleic acid according to any one of Claims 35-37.